

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U.S.D.A. Washington, D.C. October 23, 1953 SS 131

1953 Crop Volume Third Largest

October 1 estimate of all-crop volume remains third-largest of record, exceeded only in 1948 and 1952. A few crops improved during September—cotton, all hay, and rice; many others changed only a little; but for spring wheat, soybeans, sorghum grain, peanuts, and some others production prospects declined.

September Weather Favorable

The generally dry, warm weather during September was favorable to ideal for maturing and harvesting crops. Frost in various sections caused only minor crop damage; in fact, killing frosts in some areas about October 6 were welcome, facilitating harvest of corn, soybeans, and potatoes. Rapid progress in harvesting minimized harvesting losses.

Although the extended growing season permitted even late-planted fields to mature, the widespread lack of soil moisture tended to limit yields of soybeans and sorghums, also to reduce sizes of fruit. This lack of soil moisture affected corn yields only slightly, because of the advancement of the crop. But it retarded preparation of fields and seeding of fall-sown crops rather generally and may become a significant factor in reducing the planted acreage of winter wheat and rye.

Corn Crop 5 Percent Larger Than Average

The 1953 corn crop is now estimated at 3,196 million bushels, only 20 million less than on September 1. It is 11 percent less than the record crop of 1948, 3 percent less than the 1952 crop, but 5 percent larger than the 1942-51 average of 3.0 billion bushels. The crop is mostly of good quality and ready for cribbing because of low moisture content, but some corn in dry areas is chaffy or shallow-kerneled.

Oilseed Production Declined During September

Prospective oilseed production declined 3 percent during September as improved cottonseed prospects did not quite offset declines in soybeans and peanuts.

Crop	1942-51 average	1952	Oct. 1 1953
Soybeans	1,000 bu. 219,596	1,000 bu. 291,682	1,000 bu. 259,483
Flaxseed	38,312	31,002	39,011
Peanuts, picked and threshed	1,000 lb. 2,062,522	1,000 lb. 1,354,010	1,000 lb. 1,393,995
Cottonseed.....	1,000 tons 4,955	1,000 tons 6,176	1/ 6,376

1/ If ratio of lint to cottonseed is same as average for past five years.

Feed Grain Production Off

Feed grain production as of October 1 is expected to total nearly 118 million tons in 1953, which is less than in 5 of the last 7 years.

Corn — 3,196 mil. bu. — 3% below 1952; 5% above av. Oats — 1,205 mil. bu. — Less than 1952; 9% below av. Barley — 237 mil. bu. — More than 1952; a fifth below av. Sorghum grain — 115 mil. bu. — Larger than 1952; a sixth below average.

Less Food Grains Than in 1952

Food grain production is expected to total about 38 million tons in 1953—less than in 1952, but more than in any of the 3 years, 1949-51.

Wheat—above average crop.

Rice—record large crop.

Rye—2/3 of an average crop.

Buckwheat—crop will be small.

Total Hay Crop Above Average

Hay prospects improved during September—a record alfalfa crop more than compensates for a much smaller outturn of lespedeza than usual. The 105½ million tons of all hay now estimated is of mostly good to excellent quality. The supply per animal unit is adequate for the country as a whole, although some has already been used to supplement poor grazing this fall and in drought areas.

Pastures Furnish Little Grazing

Farm pastures deteriorated further during September as the result of continued dry weather over most of the country except the Southeast. For the United States as a whole, pasture feed condition on October 1 averaged 56 percent of normal, as low as any recorded for that date in nearly four decades of record except in 1934 and 1936, when conditions averaged 54 percent.

Parity Prices for Farm Products and Actual Prices Received

Commodity and Unit	Actual Price		Parity Price
	Aug. 15, 1953	Sept. 15, 1953	
Wheat, bu.	dol. 1.86	dol. 1.92	2.45
Corn, bu.	dol. 1.48	dol. 1.50	1.78
Peanuts, lb.	ct. 11.1	ct. 11.0	13.3
Cotton, lb. 1/.....	ct. 32.77	ct. 33.09	34.35
Potatoes, bu.	dol. .914	dol. .989	1.59
Hogs, 100 lb.	dol. 23.60	dol. 23.80	20.10
Beef cattle, 100 lb.	dol. 16.30	dol. 15.80	20.90
Calves, 100 lb.	dol. 16.70	dol. 15.50	23.20
Lambs, 100 lb.	dol. 20.10	dol. 17.70	22.70
Butterfat, lb.	ct. 64.7	ct. 64.8	74.0
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb.	dol. 4.18	dol. 2/ 4.41	4.65
Chickens, live, lb.	ct. 25.5	ct. 24.3	30.5
Eggs, doz.	ct. 50.2	ct. 51.4	3/ 47.7

1/ American upland cotton.

2/ Preliminary.

3/ Transitional parity.

Cotton Crop 3% Larger Than in 1952

A 1953 cotton crop of 15,596,000 bales was forecast as of October 1—3 percent more than the September 1 forecast. The 1952 crop was 15,136,000 bales and the 10-year average was 12,215,000 bales.

Lint yield per acre is estimated at 315.4 pounds, 32.7 pounds above last year's and 44 pounds above average.

Tobacco Crop 10% Below 1952

Total tobacco crop is estimated at 2,033 million pounds—virtually the same as on September 1. Declines in fire-cured and dark air-cured types were largely offset by improvement in flue-cured types.

Jan.-Sept. Milk Production 5% Above 1952 Period

Milk production on farms during September totaled 9,219 million pounds, 1 percent above September a year ago and slightly above average for the month. Production per cow continued at near record levels in spite of poor pasture feed over the country as farmers were feeding record quantities of grains and concentrates together with supplementary roughages in critical drought areas.

Record September Egg Production

Egg production in September totaled 4,206 million eggs—a record for the month. Production was 3 percent more than in September 1952 and 20 percent above the 1942-51 average.

Fruit Prospects

Apples—crop 5% larger than 1952; 11% below average. Peats—less than 1952 and average.

Grapes—much less than 1952; slightly below average.

Plums and prunes—much more abundant than in 1952.

Cranberries—record crop; one-half larger than 1952 and average.

Tree nuts—a sixth above average; about same as 1952.

Citrus—1953-54 season crop expected to be somewhat larger than 1952 or average.

Fewer Vegetables in Prospect than a Year Ago

A supply of commercial vegetables for fresh market only 2 percent less than in the fall of 1952 and 1 percent above average will be available this fall. A tonnage of vegetables for commercial processing slightly larger than was forecast in September, 8 percent less than in 1952, but 8 percent above average is now expected.

Farm Employment 4% Smaller Than Year Ago

Total farm employment in late September reached its seasonal peak, with 14 percent more workers than a month earlier. Farm workers totaled 11,299,000 persons, down 4 percent from late September 1952.

Farm Wage Rates Up

Farm wage rates were 3 percent higher on October 1 than on July 1—about the usual seasonal increase. Farm wage rates were up 1 percent from a year earlier.

Farm Real Estate Taxes Rise in 1952

Taxes levied on farm real estate in 1952 (payable largely in 1953) were 5.2 percent higher than they were

in 1951. They were 77 percent higher than in 1945, and 105 percent higher than in 1940. Taxes levied per acre on farm real estate averaged \$0.77 in 1952 compared with \$0.73 in 1951.

Farm Telephones Increase

About 42½ percent of U. S. farms had telephones on July 1. This is 2.2 percent more than a year earlier and 4.3 percent above the 1950 Census figure.

Prices received and paid down slightly

The index of prices received by farmers declined 2 points to 256 percent of its 1910-14 average on September 15. The index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and wage rates also dropped 2 points to 277. The parity ratio (ratio of index of prices received to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and wage rates) remained unchanged at 92.

Prices Received and Prices Paid by Farmers

Index Numbers, 1910-14=100

Item	Sept. 1952	Aug. 1953	Sept. 1953
Prices received by farmers	288	258	256
Crops.....	264	237	234
Food grains	240	215	219
Feed grains and hay	234	198	200
Tobacco	428	430	452
Cotton	329	277	279
Fruit	200	205	221
Truck crops.....	182	221	159
Oil-bearing crops.....	305	262	251
Livestock and products	309	276	276
Meat animals	349	305	299
Dairy products	307	267	274
Poultry and eggs	227	230	231
Prices paid by farmers:			
All commodities	271	262	259
Commodities used in living	271	273	270
Commodities used in production	1/ 271	249	247
All commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates	1/ 286	1/ 279	277
Parity ratio (prices rec'd to prices paid by farmers)	101	1/ 92	92

1/ Revised.

Current Indexes for Agriculture

Index Numbers	Base Period	Sept. 1953
Prices received by farmers	1910-14=100	256
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes and wage rates	1910-14=100	277
Parity ratio.....	1910-14=100	92
Farm wage rates	1910-14=100	1/ 515
Wholesale prices of food	1947-49=100	2/ 105
Retail prices of food.....	1947-49=100	2/ 114
Weekly factory earnings	1947-49=100	2/ 151
Production Comparisons	Jan.-Sept. 1952	Jan.-Sept. 1953
Milk, (bil. lb.)	90.2	94.4
Eggs, (bil.)	47.1	47.3
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.)	3/ 4,523	3/ 5,964
Lamb & Mutton (dr. wt., mil. lb.)	3/ 363	3/ 413
Pork & lard, (mil. lb.)	3/ 7,380	3/ 6,284
All meats, (dr. wt., mil. lb.)	3/ 12,638	3/ 13,190

1/ October 1953 figure.

2/ August 1953 figure.

3/ January-August under Federal inspection.

CURRENT ESTIMATES

Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Marketing Margin and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's
Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-food Products

Year and month	Retail cost 1/	Farm value 2/	Marketing margin	Farmer's share
1952 average	\$1,028	\$481	\$547	47%
1952 - Aug.	1,054	502	552	48
1953 - July 3/	1,011	464	547	46
Aug. 4/	1,017	461	556	45

1/ Retail cost of average quantities of farm foods purchased per urban wage-earner and clerical-worker family in 1952, calculated from retail prices collected by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

2/ Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing.

3/ Revised.

4/ Preliminary.

For comparisons with earlier months and years see The Marketing and Transportation Situation.

U. S. Farm Output, Indicated 1953 with Comparison (Index Numbers, 1935-39 = 100)

Item	1935-39	1948-52	1952	Indicated 1953 1/
Total farm output.....	100	140	144	143
Livestock production 2/	100	139	146	146
Crop production 3/	100	133	134	132
Farm-produced power 4/	100	50	41	37

1/ Indications for 1953 based chiefly on the October 1953 report of the Crop Reporting Board.

2/ Dairy products, poultry products, meat animals, wool and mohair. This index measures "gross" livestock production, i.e., feed and pasture consumed as well as product added in converting feed and pasture into livestock and livestock products.

3/ All crop production including production of feed for farm horses and mules.

4/ Not included in total farm output. Farm-produced power production includes the feed and pasture consumed by horses and mules, and the product added in converting this feed and pasture into animal power.

Cash Receipts from Farming, United States 1/

Source	Aug. 1953	Sept. 1953 2/	
		Mil. dol.	Mil. dol.
Farm marketings and CCC loans 3/	2,486	3,300	
Livestock and products	1,390	1,600	
Meat animals	695		
Dairy products	364		
Poultry and eggs	318		
Other	13		
Crops	1,096	1,700	
Food grains.....	349		
Feed crops	147		
Cotton (lint and seed).....	66		
Oil-bearing crops	16		
Tobacco	156		
Vegetables	181		
Fruits and tree nuts.....	109		
Other	72		
Government payments	8		
Total cash receipts	2,494		

1/ For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

2/ Preliminary.

3/ Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month.

Cash Receipts from Farm Marketings, by States, Aug. 1953 1/2/

State and Region	Livestock and products	Crops	Total
	\$ Thous.	\$ Thous.	\$ Thous.
Maine	10,874	2,329	13,203
New Hampshire	5,669	833	6,502
Vermont	7,576	567	8,143
Massachusetts	12,075	4,209	16,284
Rhode Island	1,526	698	2,224
Connecticut	11,347	2,368	13,715
New York	47,635	29,893	77,528
New Jersey	20,164	18,996	39,160
Pennsylvania	52,672	20,988	73,660
<i>North Atlantic</i>	<i>169,538</i>	<i>80,881</i>	<i>250,419</i>
Ohio	52,339	36,859	89,198
Indiana	63,588	38,762	102,350
Illinois	87,891	58,844	146,735
Michigan	36,055	30,974	67,029
Wisconsin	73,801	13,104	86,905
<i>East North Central</i>	<i>313,674</i>	<i>178,543</i>	<i>492,217</i>
Minnesota	67,470	21,556	89,026
Iowa	145,976	15,990	161,966
Missouri	55,736	16,489	72,225
North Dakota	11,123	20,218	31,341
South Dakota	28,602	13,231	41,833
Nebraska	49,413	31,804	81,217
Kansas	44,900	90,282	135,182
<i>West North Central</i>	<i>403,220</i>	<i>209,570</i>	<i>612,790</i>
Delaware	7,273	2,480	9,753
Maryland	15,503	10,384	25,887
Virginia	22,640	9,956	32,596
West Virginia	9,820	2,501	12,321
North Carolina	18,410	85,893	104,303
South Carolina	7,833	17,014	24,847
Georgia	21,599	91,932	113,531
Florida	10,979	9,114	20,093
<i>South Atlantic</i>	<i>114,057</i>	<i>229,274</i>	<i>343,331</i>
Kentucky	25,058	6,636	31,694
Tennessee	21,181	5,813	26,994
Alabama	13,484	13,046	26,530
Mississippi	14,795	7,322	22,117
Arkansas	17,631	5,005	22,636
Louisiana	8,895	16,937	25,832
Oklahoma	33,268	37,230	70,498
Texas	76,702	60,719	137,421
<i>South Central</i>	<i>211,014</i>	<i>152,708</i>	<i>363,722</i>
Montana	9,787	13,066	22,853
Idaho	9,935	14,364	24,299
Wyoming	4,956	1,619	6,575
Colorado	22,039	22,176	44,215
New Mexico	7,652	1,639	9,291
Arizona	4,605	2,395	7,000
Utah	8,134	4,319	12,453
Nevada	2,352	462	2,814
Washington	15,529	28,758	44,287
Oregon	14,250	31,215	45,465
California	79,431	125,139	204,570
<i>Western Region</i>	<i>178,670</i>	<i>245,152</i>	<i>423,822</i>
<i>United States</i>	<i>1,390,173</i>	<i>1,096,128</i>	<i>2,486,301</i>

1/ All figures represent sales of farm products, plus Commodity Credit loans reported during the month, minus Commodity Credit loans repaid during the month.

2/ For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

Penalty for private use to avoid
payment of postage \$300

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

BAE - SSL - 131 - 10/53 - 5400
Permit No. 1001